

March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

“20/20 Hindsight”



Weekly Devotionals for Holy Week- March 25-30

Monday, March 25 Read John 12:12-16

Have you ever lost your keys or glasses or other familiar item only to find it was in front of you the whole time? It's because we take them for granted and get distracted by other things. Holy Week is a time to focus on who this Jesus really is, what he does and what he truly means in our lives. Like the disciples, we imagine we understand but often fail to really look and what's really going on. Today, and this week, reflect on the state of your own faith and the nature of your personal discipleship. How can you further deepen your Christian relationship?

Tuesday, March 26 Read Psalm 71:1-14

In a moment of crisis, John Wesley turned to his friend Peter Bohler and asked whether he should just stop preaching since he doubted his own faith. “Preach faith *until* you have it,” Bohler wisely replied, “and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.” There are times when we must cling desperately to God especially when it seems to our earth-cloaked eyes that He has left us. It is precisely then that we take the biggest steps of faith...and thereby regain it. How can we pray a psalm like this in our own dark moments? Memorize v. 14 for today.

Wednesday, March 27 Read: John 13:21-32

It is instructive here that the disciples were unaware of the betrayer in their midst, and were discomfited by the thought it might even be themselves. We all have the sinful capacity to seek our own interests and turn from God's. Despite the excuses we make, this is still betrayal. In what areas does your dedication to discipleship falter? Make this your confession today as you pray honestly before God.

Maundy Thursday, March 28 Read John 13:1-17;31-35

Look at v.8. Peter is uncomfortable baring his dirty feet before His Lord and opening himself up to Jesus' changing work. Of course, the real dirt here isn't just on his feet as Jesus' response reminds us. What 'dirt' are we hesitant to expose to Christ's redemptive work and why? How does our reluctance separate us from Christ?

Good Friday, March 29 Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Scriptures tell us Christ hung on the cross from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon. In that time, “he who knew no sin” literally *became your* sin. He did it so you could live a life of purpose and eternity and solely out of an undeserved love for you. This is the heart of what we believe so spend time today reflecting, praying and saying thank you.

Holy Saturday, March 30 Read John 19:38-42

So many times we are sure that things are over and it's time to give up. As Jesus' body is placed in the tomb, it is vital to remember that we serve the God who makes worlds from words, humanity from dirt, kings from shepherds, disciples from sinners and life from death. It's Saturday now but hold on, Sunday's coming!



"20/20 Hindsight"

Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Notes

"20/20 Hindsight" John 12:12-16

1. **Jesus doesn't come to us to grant our earthly wishes.**
2. **Instead he comes to take the selfishness that separates us from God to the grave!**

Reflecting on Holy Week

1. **Read John 13:21-32 aloud to the group.** Share: "It is instructive here that the disciples were unaware of the betrayer in their midst, and were discomfited by the thought it might even be themselves. We all have the sinful capacity to seek our own interests and turn from God's. Despite the excuses we make, this is still betrayal." In groups of two or three, discuss the

- *In what areas does your dedication to discipleship falter? In what ways are you most likely to betray (yes, that's a harsh, but fitting word!) Christ's call to you?*
- *What are ways we can lovingly strengthen one another against this?*

2. **Read John 12:12-16 aloud.** Share: "Have you ever lost your keys or glasses or other familiar item only to find it was in front of you the whole time? It's because we take them for granted and get distracted by other things. Holy Week and Easter are special times to focus on who this Jesus really is, what he does and what he truly means in our lives. Like the disciples, we imagine we understand but often fail to really look and what's really going on." Discuss the following:

- *What factors made the crowd misunderstand who the Messiah was supposed to be? At their core, what motivated their attitudes and goals?*
- *What factors might make us take Jesus for granted or misunderstand what our purpose is in Him? How might that be similar and different from the people in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?*
- *The word "Hosanna" means "Save us!" What did the folks on that day want Jesus to save them from? What do we want Jesus to save us from? How might those desires be different from what Jesus offer deliverance?*

2. **Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12** Share: "Scriptures tell us Christ hung on the cross from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon. In that time, "he who knew no sin" literally *became your sin* (2 Corinthians 5:21). He did it so you could live a life of purpose and eternity and solely out of an undeserved love for you. This is the heart of what we believe so spend time today reflecting, praying and saying thank you."

- *How is Easter (and an Easter perspective) necessary for shaping everything we are and do? How can we strengthen this understanding in ourselves and one another?*